

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,354

Examiner

EDMUND H. LEE

Applicant(s)

CHADWICK ET AL.

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/22/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060726
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1732

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Thurlow on 7/26/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

The phrase "GRIP ELEMENT AND" has been deleted; and the phrase "THEREOF" has been replaced with --GRIP ELEMENT--.

In the claims:

CI 1, ln 2: the phrase -- manipulatable by only the fingers-- has been inserted after "article".

CI 1, ln 4: the phrase -- said outer layer being softer than said rigid support structure and being readily compressible and deformable in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto,-- has been inserted after "structure,".

CI 1, ln 8: the word "an" has been replaced with --said--.

CI 1, ln 11: the phrase --, wherein said outer layer is sufficiently deformable and thick to permit shifting in a direction other than a radial direction in

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

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The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

The phrase "GRIP ELEMENT AND" has been deleted; and the phrase "THEREOF" has been replaced with --GRIP ELEMENT--.

In the specification:

Pg 1, In 2 of paragraph 0001: the phrase --, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,941--.

In the claims:

Cl 1, In 2: the phrase -- manipulatable by only the fingers-- has been inserted after "article".

Cl 1, In 4: the phrase -- said outer layer being softer than said rigid support structure and being readily compressible and deformable in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto,-- has been inserted after "structure,".

Cl 1, In 8: the word "an" has been replaced with --said--.

Art Unit: 1732

CI 1, ln 11: the phrase --, wherein said outer layer is sufficiently deformable and thick to permit shifting in a direction other than a radial direction in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto-- has been inserted after "element".

CI 1, ln 12: the phrase -- with said soft, compressible and deformable material thereon-- has been inserted after "structure".

Claim 10 has been canceled.

CI 12, ln 2: the phrase -- manipulatable by only the fingers-- has been inserted after "article".

CI 12, ln 4: the word "an" has been replaced with --said--.

CI 12, ln 9: the phrase -- said outer layer being softer than said rigid support structure and being readily compressible and deformable in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto,-- has been inserted after "structure,".

CI 12, ln 11: the phrase --, wherein said outer layer is sufficiently deformable and thick to permit shifting in a direction other than a radial direction in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto-- has been inserted after "itself".

CI 12, ln 12: the phrase -- with said soft, compressible and deformable material thereon-- has been inserted after "structure".

Art Unit: 1732

CI 13, ln 2: the phrase -- manipulatable by only the fingers-- has been inserted after "article".

CI 13, ln 5: the phrase -- said covering being softer than said rigid support structure and being readily compressible and deformable in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto-- has been inserted after "therein".

CI 13, ln 13: the phrase --, wherein said covering is sufficiently deformable and thick to permit shifting in a direction other than a radial direction in response to application of finger gripping pressure thereto-- has been inserted after "itself".

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following US patents show the state of the art: 6790029; 6786835; 5087042; 4785495; 4338270; 4186924; 3374503; 2495119; and 2205769.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.


 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571.272.1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1732

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

EHL


7/26/06